

Remarks

Currently pending in this application are claims 1-4, 6-12 and 16-21. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner, and advancement of the application to allowance.

35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-12 and 16-21 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bleys ('226) or Bleys ('779) or Eling et al. ('483), each in view of Oertel. The Examiner states the components used in the present invention for producing the polyurethane systems have been disclosed in the Bleys' and Eling et al. references. However, these references are silent with regards to coating a mould with an external release agent. The Examiner now adds Oertel to show the use of an external mould release agent in a polyurethane system.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness: (i) there must be some suggestion or motivation to combine the reference teachings; (ii) there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and (iii) the reference teachings must teach or suggest all claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the references, and not based on Applicant's disclosure *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d, 488 (Fed. Cir. 1991). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit the Examiner has not produced a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

In the present application, Applicants claims are directed to a process for coating a mould with an external mould release agent and then preparing and removing at least

10 polyurethane materials from the mould without repeating coating of the mould with the external mould release agent.

Oertel teaches “a release agent is necessary in order to easily and quickly remove the foam from the mould . . . [and its] effectiveness . . . depends less on the amount than on the uniformity of the coating.” *Oertel, Polyurethane Handbook: Chemistry – Raw Materials – Processing- Application – Properties*, pp114-115, 2nd Edition, Hanser Publishers (New York, NY 1994). Oertel further teaches “the removed parts must be subjected to an after treatment to remove adhering release agent residues.” *Id.* Based on these teachings, Oertel suggests the external mould release agent must be applied to the mould each time a mould is prepared and removed from the mould. Otherwise, the mould’s surfaces will not contain a uniform coating of the mould release agent due to the agent’s adherence on the removed mould parts and thus, the mould release agent will lose its effectiveness.

Oertel also teaches the external mould release agent “extends the production cycle, but leads in the course of production, to a build-up of release agent in the mo[u]ld.” *Id.* This teaching again suggests applying the external mould release agent to the mould each time a mould is produced. Otherwise, there would be a decrease of mould release agent within the mould due to the agent’s adherence on the removed mould parts. Thus, the references cited above do not teach or suggest coating a mould with an external mould release agent and then preparing and removing at least 10 polyurethane materials from the mould before reapplying the external mould release agent to the mould. Moreover, neither of the references cited above provide a reasonable expectation

that their proposed combination will succeed, but instead teach away from Applicants claimed process.

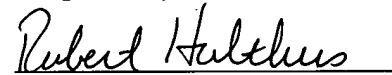
The Examiner further states in paragraph 5 that "given the similarity of the disclosed foam compositions and the instant compositions, one would expect the disclosed foam compositions to display similar mould release properties to those of the instant invention, all else being equal. It has been held that the discovery of an inherent property (i.e. beneficial mould release) of a known composition does not rise to the level of invention." However, it has also been held "[t]he inherency of an advantage and its obviousness are entirely different questions. That which may be inherent is not necessarily known. Obviousness cannot be predicated on what is unknown." *In re Shetty*, F.2d 566, 81-87 (CCPA 1977).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed towards the pending claims.

Should any fee be due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to deduct the fee from Huntsman Corporation Deposit Account No. 08-3442.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Holthus

Reg. No. 50,347

Attorney for Applicants

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